Rs. 42,000/-. CAPART did not consider it possible to continue the project.

(f) CAPART had examined the entire matter but did not find it possible to continue the project and, therefore, terminated the project in April, 1990. But taking a sympathetic view, it was decided by CAPART in April, 1991 to donate to the society the laboratory equipment and glassware etc. purchased by it at a cost of Rs. 45,234|- out of the project grant.

Minimum pension recommended by the IV Pay Commission

519. SHRI A. NALLASIVAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that as per IV Pay Commission's recommendations minimum family pension to dependents of retired Government Employees has been fixed as Rs. 375;

(b) if so, whether the minimum ex-gratia amount being given to dependents of deceased employees who had retired on Provident Fund scheme is also being revised to the minimum pension recommended by IV Pay Commission;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether it is also a fact that Supreme Court had upheld the claim for enhancement of minimum ex-gratia amount being given to dependents of deceased Provident Fund retirees to Rs. 375; and

(e) whether this decision has been implemented; if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SMT. MARGARET ALVA): (a) While the Pay Commission had recommended the minimum family pension @ Rs. 300 p.m. Government had improved upon the recommendations and sanctioned the minimum family pension @ Rs. 375 p.m. w.e.f. 1-1-86.

(b) and (c) No, Sir. Families of the deceased CPF retirees are not entitled to family pension under the CCS (Pension) Rules, 1972. Purely on sympathetic ground, the Government had accepted the recommendation of the Pay Commission to grant ex-gratia payment to them @ Rs 150 p.m. w.e.f. 1-1-86 plus dearness relief as sanctioned from time to time.

(d) This Ministry is not aware of any such judgement of the Supreme Court.

(e) Does not arise.

Problems of employees of Gandhi Ashram

520. SHRI A. NALLASIVAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government had appointed a committee to examine the problems of employees of Gandhi Ashram and other Voluntary Organisations connected with Khadi movement;

(b) if so, whether the said committee has since submitted their recommendations;

(c) if so, the nature of their recommendations; and

(d) the reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI P. J. KURIEN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir

(c) and (d) In view of the reply at (d) these do not arise.

Ex-gratia pension to surviving Provident Fund retirees

521. SHRI A. NALLASIVAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Prime Minister has received a telegram dated 7-8-91 from the President of All India Federation of Pensioners' Associations, Madras, urging for acceptance of IV Pay Commissios s recommendation for grant of ex-gratia pension to surviving Provident Fund retirees;

(b) if so, whether Government are considering grant of ex-gratia pension to surviving Provident Fund retirees on humanitarian grounds; and